



Voter outreach groups targeted by new laws in several GOP-led states are struggling to do their work

By AYANNA ALEXANDER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)— During the presidential election four years ago, the Equal Ground Education Fund hired over 100 people to go door-to-door and attend festivals, college homecomings and other events to help register voters across Florida. Their efforts for this year's elections look much different. A state law passed last year forced them to stop in-person voter registration, cut staff and led to a significant drop in funding. Organizers aren't sure how robust their operations will be in the fall. Genesis Robinson, the group's interim executive director, said the law has had a "tremendous impact" on its ability to host events and get into communities to engage directly with potential voters.

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Anita Alexander, vice president for the Kansas group Loud Light, wears a T-shirt encouraging voting on the campus of Washburn University, Friday, May 18, 2024, in Topeka, Kan.

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Voter outreach groups targeted by new laws in several GOP-led states are struggling to do their work

Continued from Front

"Prior to all of these changes, we were able to operate in a space where we were taking action and prepare our communities and make sure they were registered to vote — and help if they weren't," he said.

Florida is one of several states, including Kansas, Missouri and Texas, where Republicans have enacted voting restrictions since 2021 that created or enhanced criminal penalties and fines for those who assist voters. The laws have forced some voter outreach groups to cease operations, while others have greatly altered or reduced their activities.

The Florida law, signed by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis last May, imposed a \$50,000 fine on third-party voter registration organizations if the staff or volunteers who handle or collect the forms have been convicted of a felony or are not U.S. citizens. It also raised the fines the groups could face, from \$1,000 to \$250,000, and reduced the amount of time they are able to return registration applications from 14 days to 10 days.

A federal judge blocked portions of the law earlier this month, including the one targeting felons and those who are not citizens. Even so, the law had a direct effect



Voting rights activists Chloe Chaffin, left, and Anita Alexander talk about the work of their Kansas group, Loud Light, at Washburn University, Friday, May 18, 2024, in Topeka, Kan.

Associated Press

on the operations of Equal Ground and other voter advocacy organizations in the state before the ruling.

The League of Women Voters in Florida, one of the plaintiffs, shifted away from in-person voter registration to digital outreach. Cecile Scoon, the league's co-president, said the law stripped the personal connection between its workers and communities. Digital tools aren't easy to use when registering voters and can be expensive, she said.

These organizations are needed because local elec-

tion officials don't always provide adequate support and information, said Derby Johnson, a voter in Ormond Beach who attended a recent community event in Daytona Beach organized by Equal Ground. He said it appeared the Florida Legislature was just trying to make it harder for certain communities to register and cast ballots.

"There are parties actively working to suppress the vote, particularly in Black and brown communities, and these groups help educate and register voters to miti-

gate that," she said. MOVE Texas, a voting rights group that focuses on voters who are 30 or younger, adjusted to that state's 2021 election overhaul with additional training for their staff and volunteers. Among the provisions drawing concern was one that increased criminal penalties for anyone who receives compensation for assisting a voter, which especially affected the ability to recruit high school and college students for voter registration drives.

"The law contributed to this culture of fear in our elec-

tions and being a person who registers voters," said Stephanie Gomez, the group's political director. Republicans in Kansas overrode a veto by Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly to pass a bill that made it a felony if anyone registering voters impersonated or was assumed to impersonate an election official.

That forced Loud Light Kansas, a voter outreach group that focuses on minority communities, to stop its registration efforts. Would-be voters typically perceived their staff and volunteers as election workers even when told otherwise, said Anita Alexander, the organization's vice president.

"We're trying to engage impacted people, but we weren't willing to risk anyone getting charged by doing voter engagement work," she said.

Loud Light and other local voter registration groups sued the Legislature. The Democratic governor said there has been no evidence in the state of widespread voter fraud or instances of individuals impersonating election officials.

In Missouri, the state chapter of the League of Women Voters and the Missouri State Conference of the NAACP sued after the state enacted wide-ranging election legislation in 2022. □



National Security Council spokesman John Kirby speaks during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

By AAMER MADHANI

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House on Tuesday condemned the loss of life of

Associated Press

dozens of civilians as a result of an Israeli airstrike in Rafah, but said it is not planning any policy changes as a result of the Israeli actions.

U.S. condemns loss of life, but says no policy changes after civilian deaths in Israeli strike

National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters that Israel had not violated Biden's "red line" for withholding future offensive arms transfers because it has not, and it appears to the U.S. that it will not, launch a full-scale ground invasion into the city in southern Gaza.

Kirby called the loss of life "heartbreaking" and "horrible," and said "we certainly condemn the loss of life here."

He added that the U.S. was monitoring the results of an Israeli investigation into the strike, which suggested

the civilian deaths were the result of a secondary explosion after a successful strike on two Hamas operatives. "We understand that this strike did kill two senior Hamas heads who are directly responsible for attacks," Kirby said. "We've also said many times Israel must take every precaution possible to do more to protect innocent life."

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters that Israel's weeks-old offensive in Rafah was still on a "far different" scale than the assaults Israeli forces

waged on other cities in Gaza earlier in the seven-month war against Hamas. The U.S. had urged Israel not to replicate those earlier attacks in Rafah, given the vulnerable civilians crowded there.

Miller said he had no direct knowledge of reported accounts from witnesses on the ground Tuesday that Israeli tanks had entered the center of Gaza, and noted Israel had denied responsibility for a new Israeli strike outside of Rafah on Tuesday that Gaza health officials said killed more than 20 people. □

U.S. opens up banking to private Cuban businesses as it aims to boost private sector

By FATIMA HUSSEIN,
ANDREA RODRIGUEZ and
REBECCA SANTANA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. lifted some financial restrictions against Cuba on Tuesday, in a move designed to boost private businesses on the island.

The measures will allow independent entrepreneurs to open and access U.S. bank accounts online to support their businesses. Other measures include steps to open up more internet-based services and expand private companies' ability to use certain financial transactions.

"These regulatory amendments update and clarify authorizations in support of internet-based services to promote internet freedom in Cuba, support independent Cuban private sector entrepreneurs, and expand access to certain financial services for the Cuban people," the Treasury Department said in a news release. One of the key changes would allow Cuban private business owners to open bank accounts in the United States and then access them online once back in Cuba something they couldn't do previously. The U.S. also is again allowing something called U-turn transactions, where money is transferred from one country to another but is routed through the United States.

"This reinstated authorization is intended to help the Cuban people, including independent private sector entrepreneurs, by facilitating remittances and payments for transactions in the Cuban private sector," the release said.

The Trump administration had removed permission for the U-turn transactions in 2019. The Treasury Department's updated guidance Tuesday also changed terminology that the agency uses to make clear that Cuban officials or prohibited Cuban Communist Party members were not benefiting from the changes that are aimed at the country's



This June 6, 2019, file photo shows the U.S. Treasury Department building at dusk in Washington. Associated Press

emerging private sector. About 11,000 private businesses in Cuba are responsible for roughly one-third of the island's employment, Cuban officials have said. The changes come as Cuba struggles with one of the worst economic and energy crises in its history. Cuban citizens face waves of blackouts that have gotten worse in recent weeks and are frustrated over food shortages and inflation. Hundreds of thousands of people have migrated, many of them headed to the United States. In Cuba, caution prevailed about what the changes would mean.

"It is a generally positive measure, but there are many hows and whys that will have to be answered in the coming days," Oniel Díaz, manager of AUGE, a Cuban corporate services company told The Associated Press.

Díaz said it could open up avenues for Cuban businessmen who import everything from food to automobiles and help them make payments to suppliers, for example. But he questioned whether banks would want to do operations with businessmen on the island due to the perception of risks. Díaz recalled that during the Obama administration there was a provision that allowed albeit in a more limited way Cubans to open U.S.-based accounts,

but the banks did not show "great enthusiasm" for it. Tuesday's announcement comes a few weeks after the

U.S. removed Cuba from the State Department's short list of countries that it deems less than fully cooperative against violent groups. However, the U.S. still lists Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism a description that often scares away banks because they don't want to become the target of lawsuits in U.S. courts.

Ties between the U.S. and Cuba were essentially frozen after the 1959 revolution that saw Fidel Castro rise to power and install a Communist government.

There was a wave of nationalizations of large companies, although some small private businesses were allowed to stay open until 1968. □



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Storms leave widespread outages across Texas, cleanup continues after deadly weekend across U.S.

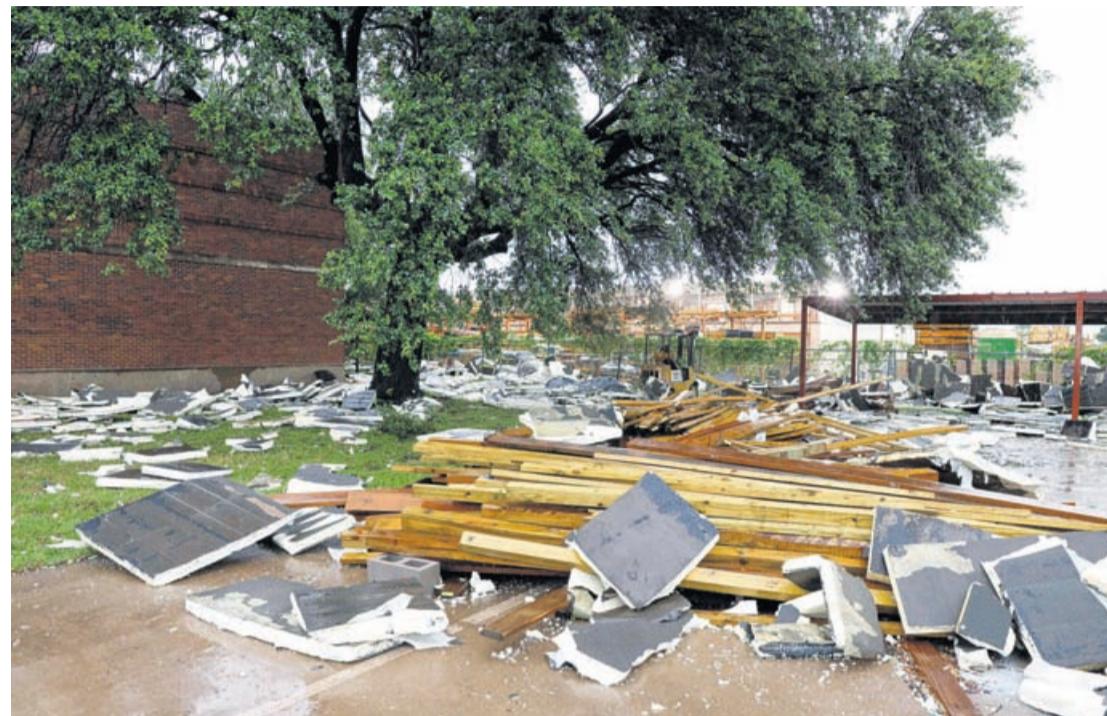
By PAUL J. WEBER and JOHN SEEWER

Associated Press

Strong storms with damaging winds and baseball-sized hail pummeled Texas on Tuesday, leaving more than 1 million businesses and homes without power as much of the U.S. recovered from severe weather, including tornadoes, that killed at least 25 people during the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Widespread outages were reported in north Texas, which includes Dallas and Fort Worth, where an oppressive, early-season heat wave added to the misery. More than 300,000 customers in Dallas County alone lacked electricity Tuesday as the outages extended into rural east Texas, according to PowerOutage.us.

Voters in the state's runoff elections found some polling places without power. Roughly 100 voting sites in Dallas County were knocked offline. Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins declared a disaster area and noted that some nurs-



Roofing materials from the Rainbow Hardware store litter a parking lot after a severe thunderstorm ripped the roof off the building, Tuesday, May 28, 2024, in Dallas.

ing homes were using generators. "This ultimately will be a multi-day power outage situation," Jenkins said Tuesday.

More rough weather and heavy rains were forecast for the Dallas area Tuesday night.

Heavy thunderstorms also were plowing toward Houston, where officials warned

that winds as strong as 70 mph could cause damage less than two weeks after hurricane-force winds knocked out power to more than 800,000 homes and businesses.

Destructive storms over the weekend caused deaths in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, North Carolina and Virgin-

ia. Meanwhile in the Midwest, an unusual weather phenomenon called a "gustnado" that looks like a small tornado brought some dramatic moments to a western Michigan lake over the weekend. Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Deanne Criswell will travel to Arkansas on

Associated Press

Wednesday as the Biden administration continues assessing the damage from the weekend tornadoes.

Seven people were killed in Cooke County, Texas, from a tornado that tore through a mobile home park Saturday, officials said, and eight deaths were reported across Arkansas.

Two people died in Mayes County, Oklahoma, east of Tulsa, authorities said. The injured included guests at an outdoor wedding. A Missouri man died Sunday after a tree limb fell onto his tent as he was camping.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said five people had died in his state during storms that struck close to where a devastating swarm of twisters killed 81 people in December 2021. One family lost their home for a second time on the same lot where a twister leveled their house less than three years ago.

Roughly 150,000 homes and businesses lacked electricity midday Tuesday in Louisiana, Kentucky, Arkansas, West Virginia and Missouri. □

Ancient Ohio tribal site where golfers play is changing hands but the price is up to a jury

NEWARK, Ohio (AP) —

Ohio's historical society is one step away from gaining control of ancient ceremonial and burial earthworks maintained by a country club where members golf alongside the mounds.

A trial was slated to begin Tuesday to determine how much the historical society must pay for the site, which is among eight ancient areas in the Hopewell Earthworks system named a World Heritage Site last year.

Built between 2,000 and 1,600 years ago by people from the Hopewell Culture, the earthworks were host to ceremonies that drew people from across the continent, based on archeological discoveries of raw materials from as far west

as the Rocky Mountains. The Ohio History Connection, which owns the 2,000-year-old Octagon Earthworks in Newark in central Ohio, won a state Supreme Court decision a year and a half ago allowing it to reclaim a lease

held by the Moundbuilders Country Club so that it can turn the site into a public park.

The historical society has put the value of the site at about \$2 million while the country club is seeking a much higher return.



A 155-foot diameter circular enclosure around hole number 3 at Moundbuilders Country Club at the Octagon Earthworks in Newark, Ohio, is pictured July 30, 2019.

Associated Press

Native Americans constructed the earthworks, including eight long earthen walls, that correspond to lunar movements and align with points where the moon rises and sets over the 18.6-year lunar cycle.

The Ohio History Connection calls them "part cathedral, part cemetery and part astronomical observatory." Numerous tribes, some with historical ties to Ohio, want the earthworks preserved as examples of Indigenous peoples' accomplishments.

In 1892, voters in surrounding Licking County enacted a tax increase to preserve what was left of the earthworks. The area was developed as a golf course in 1911, and the state first leased the 134-acre prop-

erty to Moundbuilders Country Club in the 1930s. A county judge ruled in 2019 that the historical society can reclaim the lease via eminent domain.

The club challenged the attempt to take the property, saying the Ohio History Connection did not make a good faith offer to purchase the property as required by state law. The country club says it has provided proper upkeep of the mound and allowed public access over the years.

The club suffered another legal blow when the trial court disallowed evidence it had hoped to present regarding the land's value. The club appealed that decision to the state Supreme Court, which declined jurisdiction. □

U.S. vows more returns of looted antiquities as Italy celebrates latest haul of 600 artifacts

By NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italy on Tuesday celebrated the return of around 600 antiquities from the U.S., including ancient bronze statues, gold coins, mosaics and manuscripts valued at 60 million euros (\$65 million), that were looted years ago, sold to U.S. museums, galleries and collectors and recovered as a result of criminal investigations.

U.S. Ambassador Jack Markell, Matthew Bogdanos, the head of the antiquities trafficking unit of the New York district attorney's office, and members of the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations department were on hand for the presentation alongside the leadership of Italy's Culture Ministry and Carabinieri art squad. It was the latest presentation of the fruits of Italy's decades-old effort to recover antiquities that were looted or stolen from its territory by "tombaroli" tomb raiders, sold to an-



From left, Colonel Matthew Bogdanos, Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan, Italian Culture Minister Undersecretary Gianmarco Mazzi, Italian Carabinieri Generals, paramilitary police, Massimo Menniti, and Francesco Cargaro, pose for photographer during the presentation to journalists of some 600 stolen works of art that were given back by the United States of America to the Italian Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, in Rome, Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

Associated Press

tiquities dealers who often forged or fudged provenance records to resell the loot to high-end buyers, auction houses and museums.

Markell said that Washington was committed to returning the stolen loot "to where it belongs" as a sign of respect for Italy and its cultural and artistic heritage.

"We know that safeguarding this history requires care and vigilance, and this is why we do what we do," he said, adding that the

U.S. was keeping a close eye on the latest target for art traffickers: Ukraine.

Not included in the latest haul from the U.S. was the "Victorious Youth" ancient Greek bronze statue, the object of a decades-long court battle between Italy and the Malibu, California-based Getty Museum. The prized statue recently made headlines anew when the European Court of Human Rights strongly backed Italy's right to seize it, reaffirming that it had been illegally exported from Italy.

Bogdanos and Homeland Security officials declined to comment on whether or when the "Victorious Youth" might be returned, saying it's part of an ongoing investigation.

Among the most valuable artifacts on display Tuesday was a fourth-century Naxos silver coin depicting god of wine Dionysius that was looted from an illicit excavation site in Sicily before 2013 and smuggled to the United Kingdom. □

Former intel agency chief set to become the Netherlands' next prime minister in hard right coalition

By MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — A former head of the Dutch intelligence agency and counterterrorism office emerged Tuesday as the surprise nominee to become the Netherlands' next prime minister, after he was given the

backing of leaders cobbling together a four-party coalition headed by Geert Wilders' far-right Party for Freedom.

Dick Schoof, the 67-year-old former head of the General Intelligence and Security Service and currently the top civil servant at the Ministry of Security

and Justice, met with the leaders of the four parties before they announced he was their choice for prime minister at a late afternoon

news conference. His name had not been circulating as a possible prime minister and he conceded that his nomination

was a surprise. "The step I am taking is unexpected, but not illogical," he told reporters in The Hague. □



In this image taken from video, Dick Schoof attends a meeting in The Hague, Netherlands, Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

Associated Press

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Hundreds mourn gang killings of a Haitian mission director and a young American couple

By EVENS SANON and DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Hundreds of people packed into a sweltering church in Haiti's capital on Tuesday to mourn Judes Montis, a mission director killed by gang members who also fatally shot an American couple that worked with him.

Wails filled the crowded church during the early morning service as tears streamed down the face of Montis' wife. The service also honored the lives of Davy and Natalie Lloyd, a married couple in their early 20s who were with Montis when gunmen ambushed them on Thursday night as they left a youth group activity held at a local church. Montis, 47, leaves behind a wife, two children, ages 2 and 6, and a brother who was present the night that the killings occurred.

"We'll never forget you or the path you created for others!" cried out one mourner as the crowd dressed in black and white made its way from the church to the cemetery. The service was held just days after the three were killed in a gang-controlled area in a northern part of Port-au-Prince where Montis worked as the local director of the Oklahoma-



A photograph of Davy and Natalie Lloyd hangs during the funeral of their mission director Judes Montis, all three killed by gangs, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

Associated Press

based Missions in Haiti, a religious organization founded by David and Alicia Lloyd, Davy Lloyd's parents. "We are facing the most difficult time of our life," Missions in Haiti said in a recent Facebook post. "Thank you for all your prayers and support."

Montis' brother, Esuaue Montis, a 43-year-old Spanish teacher with the mission, told The Associated Press that he was nearby during the shootings. He said that he saw the gunmen arrive and he used a truck to block the gate before he

started running with several orphans and employees in tow. The group got separated, and when Esuaue Montis jumped over one wall, he encountered a group of armed men. They pushed him to the ground and stepped on him as one gunman asked people in the area if they recognized him while another said, "He works at the orphanage. Kill him." In that moment, his phone rang. It was a friend whom he had called earlier in a frenzy to tell him about the situation.

"This call is going to save you or going to kill you," he recalled one gunman telling him as he ordered Montis to answer the phone. His friend lied and told the men that Esuaue Montis didn't work at the orphanage. "He gave me back the phone and left," Montis said of the gunman. He hasn't returned to the organization's school where he worked and is now looking to flee Haiti. "How will I be able to continue working in the orphanage, not seeing Jude next to me?" Esuaue Mon-

tis said between tears. "My brother checked on me all the time. If I went out in the afternoon, he would call and say, 'Brother, where are you?'"

Montis said the mission had never been threatened before, adding that gang members in the area had only asked for small handouts on occasion.

While Jude Montis was buried in Port-au-Prince, Missions in Haiti said that the U.S. Embassy is working on obtaining the documents needed for the bodies of the Lloyds to be flown to the U.S., adding that it has relocated its staff and others to a safer location.

A Facebook post from Cassidy Anderson, a spokesperson for the family, on Tuesday stated that "transport has been completely secured," but that no information would be released because of security concerns. Natalie Lloyd, 21, is the daughter of Missouri state Rep. Ben Baker. He wrote on Facebook that he spoke by phone Monday with former U.S. President Donald Trump, who called to express his condolences. "He mentioned how sorry he was that this evil happened to our kids and how beautiful their devotion was to their calling and to the people of Haiti," Baker wrote. □

Poland's foreign minister says it should not exclude the possibility of sending troops to Ukraine



Lithuanian Army soldiers take part in a Lithuanian-Polish Brave Griffin 24/II military exercise near the Suwalki Gap near the Polish border at the Dirmiskes village, in Lithuania on Friday, April 26, 2024.

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Poland's foreign minister says the NATO nation should not exclude the possibility of sending troops to Ukraine and should keep Russian President Vladimir Putin in suspense over whether such a decision would ever be made. Radek Sikorski made the comments in an interview published Tuesday in the Gazeta Wyborcza daily.

"We should not exclude any option. Let Putin be guessing as to what we will do," Sikorski said when asked whether he would send Polish troops to Ukraine. Sikorski said he has gone to Ukraine with his family in the past to deliver humanitarian aid.

But a spokesperson for Poland's Defense Ministry, Janusz Sejmej, told Polish media on Tuesday he had "no knowledge of that" when asked about a report in Germany's Der Spiegel magazine suggesting Poland might send troops to Ukraine.

The idea of sending foreign soldiers to Ukraine, which is battling Russian military aggression, was floated earlier this year in France, but no country, including Poland, has publicly embraced it.

Poland supports neighboring Ukraine politically and by providing military equipment and humanitarian aid. □

Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill

(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Janmanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park. The staircase that runs on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the govern-

ment decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stairs for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see. The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day.□



Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour



ORANJESTAD - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the downtown area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and interna-

tional cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25 minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00 pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center—it is free for all!!□

Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

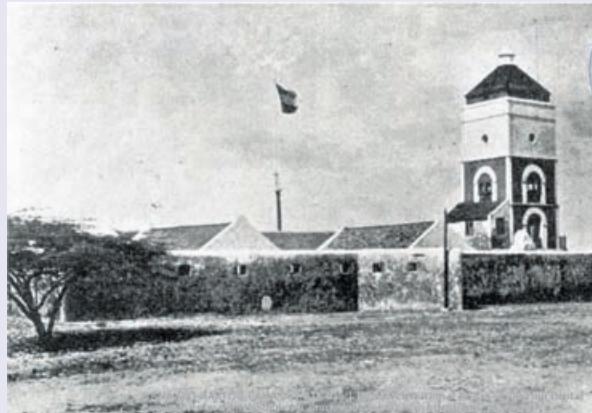
(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building "Cocolishi", is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually

called "Willem III Toren". Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era).

Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is.



Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm.□

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba by Jan Hartog.



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provides you the freedom to call anytime or choose from the different Prepaid bundles SETAR offers: Data Bundles: Stay connected with high-speed Internet and choose from various data options to suit your needs.

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Aruba To You Expands Its Network with 20 Restaurants and Partners with Property Management Companies for Exclusive Promotions

(Oranjestad)—Aruba To You, Aruba's innovative food delivery service, continues to expand its offerings with nearly 20 restaurants now part of its platform. In a strategic move to enhance dining experiences for tourists and locals alike, Aruba To You is partnering with leading property management companies to offer special promotions to their clients.

Since its inception on March 6, 2024, Aruba To You has rapidly grown, reflecting its commitment to connecting customers with a wide variety of dining options. The service's partnership with property management companies aims to bring unique dining deals directly to the accommodations of

visitors, enriching their stay on the island. "We are excited about these collaborations, which are geared towards creating an even more memorable experience for guests by providing them with convenient access to some of the best food Aruba has to offer right at their doorstep," said Gianluca Sardo, Co-founder of Aruba To You.

Aruba To You invites all property management companies on the island to join this initiative, aiming to create a comprehensive network that benefits both visitors and local businesses. Through these partnerships, Aruba To You reinforces its mission to support the local community and drive a positive impact on Aruba's tourism and hospitality industry.

For more information about Aruba To You, to view the list of partner restaurants, or to learn more about the special promotions available through our property management partners, please visit app.arubatoyou.com, contact us via email at info@arubatoyou.com, or connect with us on WhatsApp at +297 568 3974.

Contact:

Gianluca Sardo
Co-founder
Aruba To You
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Soul Beach Music Festival's success continues

(Oranjestad) - This past weekend, in which Memorial Day is observed; Aruba had the pleasure to host once again Soul Beach Music Festival. A weekend full of laughter, joy, good music and long lasting connections made.

The Soul Beach Music Festival is more than just a music festival, for the past 22 editions of the festival it has been an experience curated in such a fantastic way that both visitors and locals alike look forward to it year in and year out. It is a place where you build new connections, new friendships, make new lifelong memories and gain a new home away from home, with the added bonus of great music and a wonderful experience.

This year's edition featured one of the biggest names in music and comedy, with iconic headliners like Mariah Carey, Boyz II Men, Earthquake and DJ's like DJ Jazzy Jeff, DJ Frank Si, DJ Trauma, DJ Envy, DJ Aktive and DJ Outkast.

The main concert continued on Saturday with unforgettable performances. On Saturday, the audience was delighted with a combination of local flavor and international sensations.

The opening act for the night was NFuzion, a local group that wowed the crowd with their amazing rhythms, great stage presence and interactions with

the crowd. They played a range of loved songs as well as introduced the audience to new music with a local touch. It was fun music that got everyone dancing.

The next act of the night was none other Skip Marley, the maternal grandson of the legendary Bob Marley. Skip Marley, who is a part of the legendary reggae family that includes his mother Cedella along with uncles Ziggy, Stephen and Damian Marley, has his own sound that adds touches of contemporary pop, rap and rock. He first rose to prominence after being featured of Katy Perry's 2017 hit "Chained to the Rhythm," which he followed over the next years with several singles of his own, namely the mega hit "Slow down," the chart-topping collaboration with H.E.R., that was included in his debut EP Higher Place the following year.

He gave an electrifying performance that was more than just watching an artist perform, it was an experience that took you on a journey of sublime enjoyment and discovery of new music and for those who may not have heard him before, he delighted the crowd with Bob Marley songs combined with a Skip Marley twist. He gave a performance that will go down in the books as one of the best seen, and left everyone in the audience wanting more. □

The headlining act of the night was the one and only, the iconic Mariah Carey, one of the most looked forward to acts of the festival.

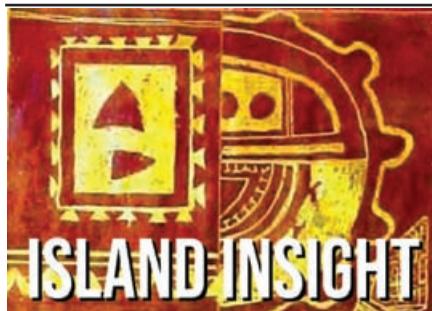
Mariah Carey is an author, entrepreneur, philanthropist, producer and multiple award-winning artist and songwriter. She is the best-selling female artist of all time with more than 200 million albums sold to-date and 19 Billboard Hot 100 #1 singles (18 of which are self-penned) - more than any solo artist in history. With her distinct five-octave vocal range, prolific songwriting, and producing talent.

Carey is truly the template of the modern pop performance. Mariah is also an inductee to the Songwriters Hall of Fame, and has been recognized with multiple Grammy Awards, numerous American Music Awards, three Guinness World Record titles, both Billboard's "Artist of the Decade" and "Icon" awards and much more.

She gave a captivating performance that left everyone in the audience in awe at her stage presence and her exquisite vocals. She opened the night singing one of her many hits, taking everyone back in time along the duration of her performance.

Carey was the cherry on top that made the Saturday night concert an iconic night that no one present will ever be able to forget. □





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



The Holy Cross of Santa Cruz

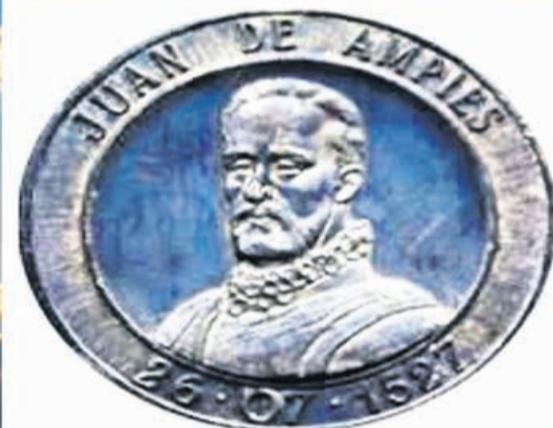
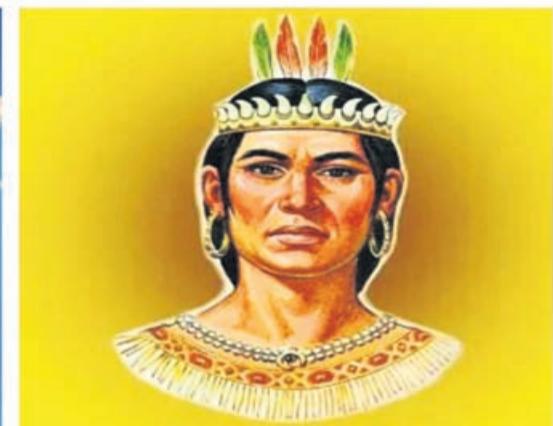
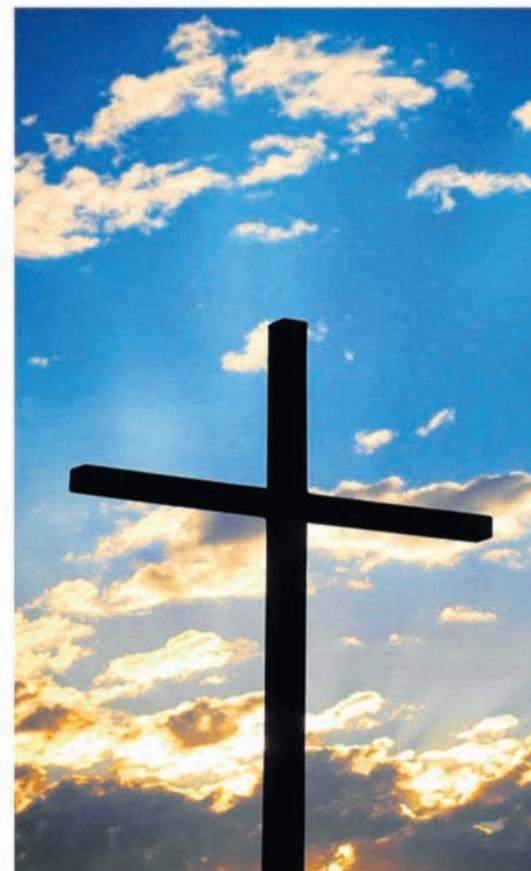
Each week, Etnia Nativa presents a new episode about cultural heritage and, during this, shares a bit of the history of Santa Cruz's district. Until today, Santa Cruz and Noord have brought together a large number of the descendants of Aruba's native population.

At the beginning of the 16th century, one of the few indigenous monarchs known as Caciques managed to negotiate a commercial treaty with the Spaniards and make possible the establishment of our island. He was the legendary Manaure, chief of the southwestern Caribbean and northwestern main land areas. These were times of prosperous commercial relations with the old continent. The prosperity of the region and its close relationship with the opposite shore caused the governor, Juan Martín de Ampies, to frequently visit Aruba.

However it was common to kidnap native Indians and sell them as captives to merchants from Santo Domingo, among whom were relatives of Manaure. It happened to be that Governor Juan de Ampies had rescued a good number of these indigenous people and all of Manaure's relatives who were taken from Aruba. In gratitude, both parties signed the first alliance, followed by the founding in 1527 of the city of Santa Ana de Coro in Venezuela.

Because of the friendly relationship that surged between Manaure and Juan de Ampies by returning the Cacique's family to Aruba and the main land, Manaure promised that he himself and his entire nation would convert to the Catholic faith. Once the agreement was signed, the Spaniards went to look for a large wooden cross they had on the ship. It cannot be determined whether Juan de Ampies fulfilled the condition of baptizing the Indians before transporting them from the mainland to the island. However, it is easy to deduce that Aruba being part of the domain of Manaure means that he is the one who brought Christianity to our island together with the Spaniards. The Spanish method of conversion was the same in Aruba as in other parts of the Americas. The priests who accompanied the first explorers preferred converted Indians for the trip.

On our island, it was easy to find a converted Indian since many of our natives belonged to the same tribal



community on the opposite continental shore.

With the approval of Manaure, the holy cross was taken to a place located between the main populated areas, Piedra Plat, Noord, and Savaneta. The sinking of the holy cross gave rise to the birth of the town of the same name, known today as Santa Cruz.

Tradition has it that the day after this event, one of the company's priests read the Holy Mass for the first time in that place, and that same day, the first child was baptized.

It may not be possible to verify the details of the conversion of the natives of Aruba to the Catholic faith, but the oral tradition recorded by Dutch Father Jansen is correct in respects to the course of events as well as to the names involved.

It was in 1580 when Juan Manuel Martínez de Manzanillo O.P. was proclaimed bishop of Venezuela, the province of Caracas, and the islands of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao, and in 1593, he visited Aruba for the sacrament of confirmation. This indicates that the conversion had already taken place before this period. Spanish priests continued to come regularly to Aruba to carry out ordinary missionary work as well as to give instructions in Christianity to those already baptized before their confirmation.

Upon the arrival of the Dutch in 1536, a large percentage of Aruba's population was Catholic and received regular visits from priests from the mainland. However, until that moment, there was no regular church building, and mass was held close to many of the island's big rock formations.

The Dutch occupation prohibited visits by priests from the mainland and subsequently instituted a ban on the Roman Catholic religion.

Overall, a combination of Spanish and Dutch influence marked the history of religious conversion in Aruba, along with the persistence of Catholic priests who maintained contact with the local population despite official prohibitions.

If you are interested in learning all about the true identity of Aruba, book your visit to Etnia Nativa, home of Anthony, our chief cultural columnist, who guides and lectures to unveil the most interesting stories about the island. Etnia Nativa sets itself apart from the rest as a hidden gem by offering a personal native touch and providing its visitors with the opportunity to enjoy a diverse array of artworks, objects, artifacts, dissected animals, plants, colonial furniture, unique old photos, etc. while diving to the navel of Aruba.

Book your visit: WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianativa03@gmail.com

Episode CCLVII-257

Visit the island's popular cave sites!



(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadirikiri cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an “off-road” tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!

Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadirikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri

Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawings on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual

ceremonies.

The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

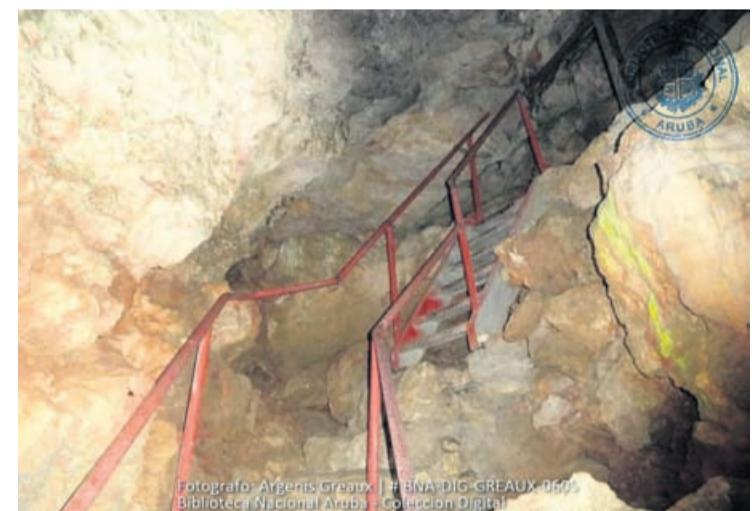
However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Arawak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight! □

Note to visitors:

Due to heavy rainfall in the past few days, Arikok National Park has informed that they have closed the Quadirikiri Cave until further notice for the safety of visitors.

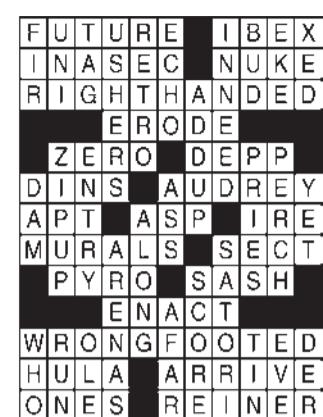
Fontein remains open from 9am to 4pm.



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

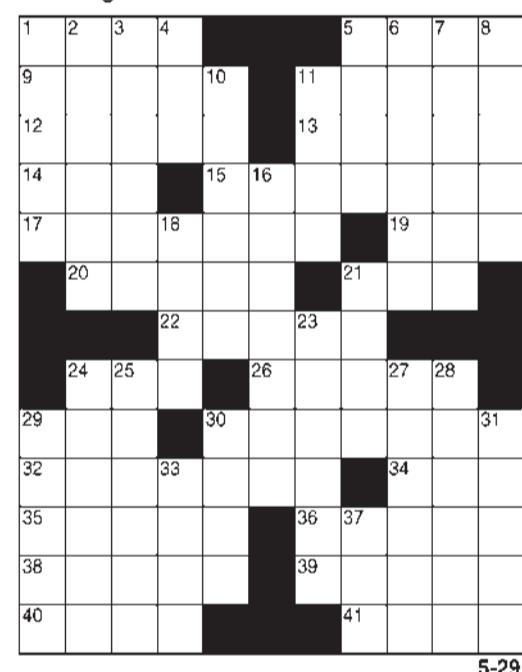
ACROSS 39 Fixes, 1 Vend as holey 5 Surrealist socks Salvador 40 Laura of 9 Assert "Jurassic 11 Type a Park" password, 41 Cuban say coin



12 Monk's place

DOWN

13 Laughable 1 Looks over 8 Static 25 Less 10 Magical distant 11 Teller of 27 Dress 2 Arm joints 28 Gets 3 Maze runner 30 Smart 16 Act of remorse 29 Inquired 4 Golf position 18 Final, e.g. 30 Order to 21 Showed 31 Rene of sorrow 33 Ocean 6 Christie of up 37 Travel aid 7 Straight 37 Travel aid



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONG FELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-29

CRYPTOQUOTE

V N X S Z J D D Z P X Z Y X H N Z
M Y C X S D R V Y C D R N X
S X D L Z Y D J F J U J R G R N V R Q Z P X D
H J R N N J D O S X X C Z P. — F Z F
C G U V Y

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I'D RATHER REGRET THE RISKS THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT THAN THE CHANCES I DIDN'T TAKE AT ALL.
— SIMONE BILES

Cruise ship Schedule: June 01 - June 25 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH
SAT	01	NORWEGIAN JADE	10.00	20.00	C 1
THU	06	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C 1
TUE	11	SILVER SHADOW ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS	08.00 08.00 13.00	23.00 20.00 23.00	B 1 C 1 I 1
WED	12	CARNIVAL HORIZON Rhapsody of the Seas	07.00 09.00	15.00 21.00	B 1 C 1
TUE	18	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL CELEBRATION CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00 08.00 13.00	21.00 22.00 23.00	B 1 C 1 I 1
TUE	25	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

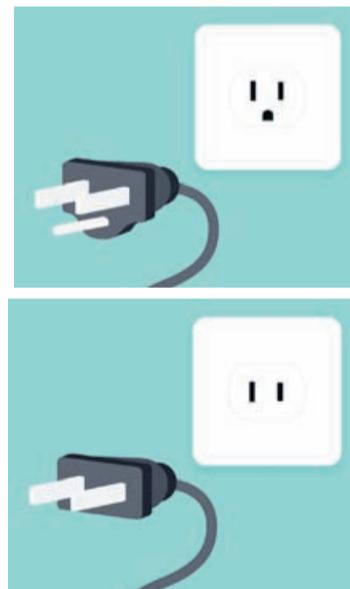
(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Electrical power



Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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ARUBA TODAY **BONDIA ARUBA**

How to reach us!

A map of downtown Aruba showing streets like Weststraat, Schepstraat, and Caya G.F. Betico Croes. A magnifying glass highlights the location of the BONDIA ARUBA office on Weststraat.



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Hollywood movies rarely reflect climate change crisis. These researchers want to change that

By PATRICK WHITTLE

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Aquaman might not mind if the oceans rise, but moviegoers might.

That's one of the takeaways from a new study conducted by researchers who set out to determine if today's Hollywood blockbusters are reflective of the current climate crisis. The vast majority of movies failed the "climate reality check" proposed by the authors, who surveyed 250 movies from 2013 to 2022.

The test is simple: the authors looked to see if a movie presented a story in which climate change exists, and whether a character knows it does. One film that passed the test was the 2017 superhero movie Justice League, in which Jason Momoa's Aquaman character says, "Hey, I don't mind if the oceans rise" to Ben Affleck's Bruce Wayne.

But most movies fell short: fewer than 10% of the 250 films passed, and climate change was mentioned in two or more scenes of fewer than 4% of the films. That's out of touch with a moviegoing public that wants "to see their reality



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Jason Momoa in a scene from "Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom."

reflected on screen," said Colby College English professor Matthew Schneider-Mayerson, lead researcher on the study.

"The top line is just that the vast majority of films, popular films produced over the last 10 years in the United States, are not portraying the world as it is," Schneider-Mayerson said. "They are portraying a world that is now history or fantasy a world in which climate change is not happening."

Researchers at Maine's

Colby College published the study in April along with Good Energy, a Los Angeles-based environmental consultancy. The results were peer reviewed, and the authors are seeking publication in scientific journals.

The researchers view the test as a way for audience members, writers and filmmakers to evaluate the representation of climate change on screen. Some results were surprising. Movies that at first glance appear to have

little overlap with climate or the environment passed the test. Marriage Story, Noah Baumbach's emotive 2019 drama about the collapse of a relationship, passed the test in part because Adam Driver's character is described as "energy conscious," Schneider-Mayerson said. The 2022 whodunnit Glass Onion and the 2019 folk horror movie Midsommar were others to pass the test. Some that were more explicitly about climate change, such as the 2021

Associated Press

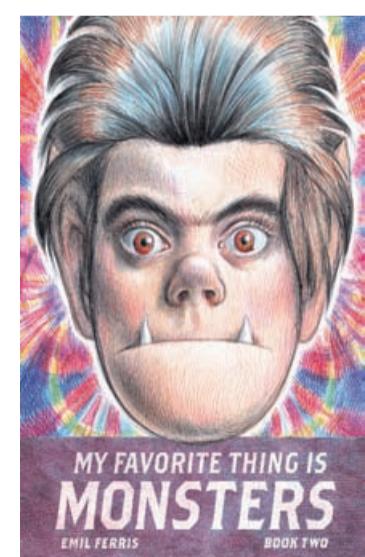
satire Don't Look Up, also passed. But San Andreas, a 2015 movie about a West Coast earthquake disaster, and The Meg, a 2018 action movie set in the ocean, did not.

The authors narrowed the selection of movies by excluding films not set on Earth or set before 2006 or after 2100. They found streaming services had a higher percentage of movies that included climate change than the major studios did.

The study is "valuable for marketing purposes, informational purposes, data accumulation," said Harry Winer, director of sustainability at the Kanbar Institute of Film and Television at the New York University Tisch School of the Arts. Winer, who was not involved in the study, said it could also help serve as an incentive to connect audiences with climate stories.

"The audience will be more open to hearing a dialogue about what is right and what is wrong," Winer said. "It's a conversation starter." The study authors said they see the climate reality check as a kind of Bechdel-Wallace test for climate change. □

Book Review: Emil Ferris tackles big issues through a small child with a monster obsession



This cover image released by Fantagraphics Books shows "My Favorite Thing Is Monsters, Book 2" by Emil Ferris.

Associated Press

By DONNA EDWARDS
Associated Press

There are two types of monsters: Ones that simply appear scary and ones that are scary by their cruelty. Karen Reyes is the former, but what does that make her troubled older brother, Deeze?

Emil Ferris has finally followed up on her visually stunning, 2017 debut graphic novel with its concluding half, "My Favorite Thing Is Monsters Book 2." It picks up right where Book 1 left off (spoilers for Book 1 ... now), with 10-year-old Karen in a fever dream as she processes her mother's

death from cancer and the revelation that she had another brother named Victor before his twin Deeze killed him.

For the uninitiated, the story is essentially Karen's diary as she dons a detective hat and oversized coat to solve mysteries like who killed the upstairs neighbor and where her emaciated classmate disappeared to in 1968 Chicago, featuring historical events like the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination and Vietnam War protests. Karen, a monster-loving Catholic school student who identifies more with werewolves than with

girls, sketches her experiences in lined notebooks. She has an astounding ability to capture people a technically skilled artist who also sees through her subjects and depicts their nature alongside their features. And she's gay, something her beloved Mama definitely did not approve of and which she must now reconcile with the society she lives in.

"Monsters" may be narrated by a kid, but it is definitely an adult book with adult language and themes. Ferris raises complicated issues ranging from the patriarchy's role in homopho-

bias and America's role in eugenics to the merits of capitalism, socialism and communism. Along with why school sucks.

And I cannot give Ferris enough accolades for acknowledging the depth of children, who often see and understand more than most adults want to admit. Ferris revels in gray areas and often calls taboos and moral lines into question, using Karen's elementary-age perspective as an opportunity to see people not as their profession, race or sexuality, but as people or, in any case, monsters, but equalizing regardless. □

All we know about Rafael Nadal's future is that we really know nothing at all

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — Let's get this part out of the way: Rafael Nadal did not announce his retirement after exiting the French Open in the first round.

Nothing else, though, is entirely clear about what comes next for the owner of 22 Grand Slam titles. He turns 38 in a week and has been dealing with injuries for quite some time.

"I don't know," Nadal acknowledged, "what's going to happen in the next few months."

He probably won't be back at the tournament where he's collected a record 14 trophies, but write that in pencil, because he would not completely rule out the possibility in the days leading up to, or the moments immediately following, the 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-3 loss to Alexander Zverev at Roland Garros on Monday that gave the Spaniard the first losing streak of his career on clay courts.

He probably won't enter Wimbledon, because it just doesn't seem like a good idea to switch to grass right now, although he would not completely rule that out, either. As for the Paris



Spain's Rafael Nadal, addresses the media after losing against Germany's Alexander Zverev during their first round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Monday, May 27, 2024.

Associated Press

Olympics, which will hold the tennis competition at Roland Garros starting in two months? He probably will be there, but hey, here's a twist he wouldn't completely commit to that. So in sum, all we really know about what the future holds for Nadal is that we don't really know a thing about what the future holds for him. Which, of course, is OK, because he is

allowed to do whatever he wants, whenever he wants, however he wants.

"Obviously," Zverev observed, "there are uncertainties."

Obviously.

"That's why I am not saying I am retiring today," said Nadal, whose 1 1/2-year-old child, Rafael Jr., sat on his mother's lap at Court Philippe Chatrier on Monday. "In terms of what's

driving me ... I'm a simple guy. I enjoy what I do. I am passionate about sport, I am passionate about competition. I like to practice, I like to play tennis. I'm in a different moment of my personal life, too, traveling with my son, wife. I am enjoying these moments that will not come back."

So, basically, why force himself to stop? Why not try to see how much more his

body can take?

Why not hope to stay out there, doing what he's done so well for so long, and maybe just give himself and his family particularly his kid, still too young to remember what is happening yet some memories to hold onto one day?

"If I keep enjoying doing what I am doing and I feel myself competitive and healthy enough to enjoy, I want to keep going for a while," Nadal explained. "I don't know for how long, but I want to keep going for a while, because they are having fun, I am having fun, and I need to see I need to give myself a little bit longer ... to see if my level is growing and my body is holding, and then let's make a decision."

Makes perfect sense.

Especially considering what both opponents took away from this latest performance, which was hardly up to Nadal's career-long standards but did include the occasional patch of play that might have been good enough to get past a lesser obstacle than Zverev. The 27-year-old German is, after all, ranked No. 4, was the runner-up at the U.S. □

Seattle Kraken name Dan Bylsma second head coach in franchise history

By TIM BOOTH

AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — The Seattle Kraken named Dan Bylsma their coach on Tuesday, putting the 2009 Stanley Cup winner with Pittsburgh back in charge of an NHL team for the first time since 2017.

Bylsma has spent the past two seasons as the head coach of the Coachella Valley Firebirds in the American Hockey League, the top affiliate of the Kraken, and has them back in the Calder Cup semifinals. He has worked extensively with several top prospects who the franchise hopes will be making their way to Seattle in the coming seasons.

"Dan is a winner with a proven track record of developing both young and veteran talent, and his leadership will help our team as we move forward," Seattle general manager Ron Francis said.

Bylsma replaces Dave Hakstol, who was fired following his third season in charge after the Kraken took a significant step backward and struggled badly at the offensive end of the ice. Seattle made the playoffs in its second year and earned Hakstol a two-year contract extension, but he was let go before that extension ever kicked in.

Before his stint with Coachella Valley, Bylsma spent parts of eight seasons as a head coach at the NHL level with Pittsburgh and Buffalo. He took over in Pittsburgh midway through the 2008-09 season and helped guide the Penguins to the Stanley Cup. Pittsburgh made the playoffs in the five seasons under Bylsma after winning the title but advanced to the conference final only once in those five trips. □



Detroit Red Wings assistant coach Dan Bylsma watches the first period of an NHL hockey game against the Toronto Maple Leafs, Oct. 11, 2018, in Detroit.

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After completing first quest by reaching NBA Finals, Celtics can begin thinking about championship

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Boston Celtics completed one quest Monday night by returning to the NBA Finals. Now, they'll chase an even bigger goal, the one that's eluded this team for more than a decade capturing the franchise's 18th championship.

Yes, despite playing for six conference titles in eight seasons, this marks only the second time Boston has advanced to The Finals during that span. And since winning their first NBA title in 1957, the Celtics' current 16-year drought is the second-longest in franchise history.

It would be the crowning achievement to what has already been a remarkable season.

"Boston has a great team. They led the league from wire to wire," Indiana Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said after his team was swept 4-0 in its first conference



Boston Celtics guard Jaylen Brown, center, celebrates with his teammates after Game 4 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals against the Indiana Pacers, Monday, May 27, 2024, in Indianapolis. The Celtics won 105-102.

Associated Press

finals appearance since 2014. "They didn't want this thing to go on any longer. They blocked shots, they got offensive rebounds, they made key shots."

Boston has excelled in seemingly every possible way in this year's playoffs. The Celtics have won seven straight games overall, they improved to 6-0 on

the road with yet another comeback victory, 105-102 in Game 4 against Indiana, and they are 3-0 in elimination games.

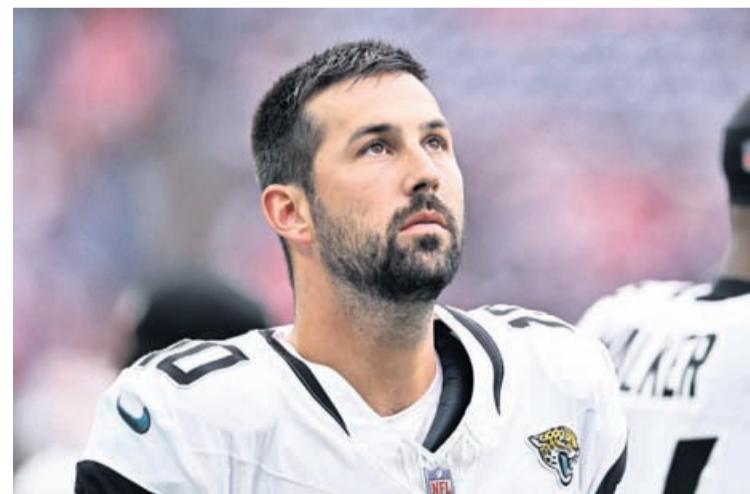
They beat Indiana three

times down the stretch, rallying in the last two games with decisive 13-2 and 7-0 closing spurts to end the Pacers' perfect 2024 play-off run at home and their season.

Next up will be the Dallas Mavericks or Minnesota Timberwolves. Dallas leads the Western Conference finals 3-0 and can clinch the series on its home court Tuesday night.

And Boston has been finding help in all corners. While Jayson Tatum garnered the usual headlines for two 36-point outings and a near triple-double in Game 4, 37-year-old Al Horford defied the odds by making seven 3-pointers in Game 3, Jrue Holiday overcame an illness to deftly pick Andrew Nembhard's pocket, and Derrick White delivered the go-ahead 3-pointer in Game 4, everyone seemed genuinely happy it was Jaylen Brown who was chosen series MVP. □

Two women are suing NFL kicker Brandon McManus alleging sexual assault



Jacksonville Jaguars placekicker Brandon McManus stands on the sideline during an NFL football game against the Houston Texans, Nov. 26, 2023, in Houston.

Associated Press

By STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Sports Writer

Two women have filed a civil lawsuit in Florida accusing NFL kicker Brandon McManus of sexually assaulting them while they worked as flight attendants on the Jacksonville Jaguars' trans-Atlantic trip to London last year.

The lawsuit, which was filed Friday and made available on the Duval County Circuit Court's public records database on Tuesday, names McManus and the team as defendants and seeks in excess of \$1 million in dam-

ages. The women, identified as Jane Doe I and Jane Doe II, allege in court documents that McManus tried to kiss one of them and grinded and rubbed up against both of them while they were trying to perform their work responsibilities during the Sept. 28 flight.

Tony Buzbee, the lawyer who represented two dozen women who accused Deshaun Watson of sexual assault or harassment, said he is the lead counsel representing the women. Buzbee wrote on social me-

dia that he and his clients attempted to resolve the matter without litigation.

"Our efforts at resolution were met with arrogance, ignorance and stupidity, strikingly similar to how Deshaun Watson's team responded when we tried to resolve those cases pre-filing," Buzbee wrote on Instagram.

"The allegations made in this lawsuit are very serious. We made sure to fully vet them and speak with witnesses before even taking the cases." □